

The Cumberland Valley Quarterly Newsletter

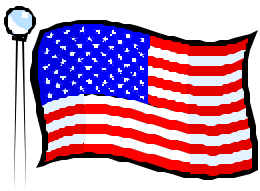
Information of Interest in the Cumberland Valley Region



Pictured above--A Mountain Scene from Pineville, Bell County

July, August, September, 2001

Volume One · Issue Two



We will never forget the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We are forever changed. We now think in terms of life as a series of events that happened either “before” that day, or “after.”

Following is a link to the CFC Online feature article about our own Shannon Jones, Rapid Response Specialist, stationed in Williamsburg.

<http://cfc.state.ky.us/cfconline/Special%20Issue/Service%20Regions.htm>

We are very proud of you, Shannon!



KECC, COA, AND Employee Recognition Week

On Tuesday, October 16, 2001, Cumberland Valley staff will be getting together at the Williamsburg Civic Center to participate in a combination celebration/fund raiser. We will be celebrating our COA visit, we will be recognizing Employee Recognition Week, and lastly, we will be raising funds for this year's Kentucky Employee Charitable Contributions. KECC is always extremely important, but naturally, this year's fundraiser is even more meaningful. Not only will we be concentrating on our local charities as we normally do, but we will also be able to request that portions of our donations be earmarked to go straight to the relief effort in New York.

Kim Short, Family Support Program Specialist, is heading up the October 16 event. You can contact Kim with questions and suggestions.

Kim has announced that there will be three time periods (from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.). Supervisors will need to ensure that offices are covered at all times. They should allow one-third of their staff to attend each interval. It is very important that employees car pool to save money. **ALL EMPLOYEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!**

October 16 details are still in the works. But we do know that there will be a Regional Auction. Each office is being asked to solicit five or more items, each item with a value of \$20 or more. Solicitations can be from local businesses, friends, family, or whoever is willing to contribute!

Other possible activities that have been mentioned include a Cake Walk, Door Prizes, Gifts of Appreciation for all Employees, Bingo, a Yard Sale, and Live Entertainment.

Kim needs ideas and volunteers to help. E-mail her! kim.short@mail.state.ky.us

Penny Gray, Family Support Supervisor of the Knox Co. Office, is taking care of organizing the food for the fundraiser. Penny asks that each office within the region donate to the "USA CUMBERLAND CAFÉ." She also would like to see the wonderful cooks throughout the region donate their home baked specialties.

Available throughout the day will be hotdogs, chili buns, tacos and toppings, chili and crackers, and nachos with cheese.

Penny says we need canned soft drinks, ice, coffee, paper products, cutlery, salsa, ketchup, mustard, pickle relish, coffee creamer, sugar and sugar substitutes, salt, pepper, etc.

Individual as well as office donations will be appreciated. Help with decorating would be wonderful.

E-mail Penny with ideas, and offers to volunteer! penny.gray@mail.state.ky.us



Council on Accreditation

Cumberland Valley's COA exit interview was Friday, August 31, 2001. On hand that day were (pictured below) Bonnie Hommrich, Deputy Commissioner, Dietra Paris, Commissioner, Tim Jackson, Deputy Secretary, Nancy Bean, Cumberland Valley's SRA, Viola Miller, Cabinet Secretary, and Kim Moore, General Counsel.



A Note from the Permanency Team:

The Permanency Team was extremely happy and proud when Cumberland Valley surpassed the goal of 24 adoptions. At this time the figure is 29 for the past year. We hope that we can contribute as successfully to permanency for the children of Cumberland Valley during the years to come.

Lana Begley, the Permanency Team Supervisor, retired on July 31, 2001 after thirty years with Protection and Permanency. Lana had been Foster Care and Adoption Specialist for Cumberland Valley for twenty years before becoming Supervisor of the Permanency Team. Lana's vast experience was a great asset to the Perm Team and contributed in a large way to the adoption goal we successfully surpassed this year. Since her retirement Lana has had to deal with the unfortunate sickness and hospitalization of her husband Sam, and he still has a great deal to go through in order to regain his health. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers on behalf of Lana and Sam Begley.

A Message from our SRA:

It seems like it was only last week I wrote the article for the last newsletter. But as I look back, we were looking forward to so many things we see in our rearview mirrors now.

The COA site visit has come and gone. What a day of celebration that was! Most of you had been involved one way or another in preparation for that event and your efforts paid off with interest. We had a superb site visit. The COA site review team was very complementary of Cumberland Valley and the work we do. I heartily congratulate all of you who were involved in assuring our success as we were compared to the best practices in our field.

We also were looking at numerous retirements and the vacancies those would create. Most of those vacancies are now filled. There is a renewed excitement as new employees present their ideas and observations and share with us their enthusiasm.

CFS is being rolled out to the other 7 counties starting this month and the EAL training is nearing completion.

We are a changed organization.

Also, as we look back, when I wrote the article for the last newsletter, the world was different. It has changed in ways we never could have anticipated. America had not been attacked. Those thousands of people had not lost their lives. Life seemed predictable. It seems now we were living in a naïve world, a Pollyanna state of existence.

All of this brings to mind what a fluid, changing world we live in. And there are at least a couple of ways we can respond: We can be like a flower that soaks up both the sun and the rain bringing beauty to the world as it becomes all it was created to become. Or we can be a turtle

shrinking into its hard shell refusing to deal with the challenges presented.

As we continue to address the various issues that face us in Cumberland Valley, we will continue to have great successes and nagging challenges. We have to be ready to change, to grow, to adjust, to accept. We have to meet challenges in new, different, and sometimes scary ways. And whether we are celebrating success or meeting challenges, do so with the professionalism, grace, and dignity the organization and the clients deserve.

Nancy Bean, SRA
Cumberland Valley

Secretarial Liaison Committee

In July the secretaries from the Cumberland Valley Region met at the Ideal Restaurant in London. This meeting was hosted by the secretaries from Laurel Co. Besides being a little warm in the restaurant, the meeting was a great success. Secretaries were asked to bring children's books to supply the Pittsburg Head Start with books for their new library. This library will give children the opportunity to take books home with them, have their parents read to them, and perhaps give them a great start towards the love of books and reading, which will serve them well in the future.

Tina Reams presented the books to a representative of Pittsburg Head Start. **The secretaries donated more than 70 books!**

Also as part of the meeting, Sam York, our Regional Training Coordinator, conducted Sexual Harassment and Telephone Etiquette training. Doreen Cornelius, recently retired Protection and Permanency Specialist, spoke to the secretaries about child fatalities and what is being done in Cumberland Valley about this problem.

The meeting concluded with a fashion show (business attire) in which our own secretaries did the modeling. To add some humor, some secretaries let us know what we should not wear to work!

All of the secretaries from Cumberland Valley Region look forward to the resumption of the secretaries' meetings in the future.

Congratulations to Deanne Hensley

Deanne Hensley has been selected as SRAA. She is now overseeing the Protection and Permanency programs of Cumberland Valley.

Deanne has over 34 years of experience and has been a supervisor for approximately 22 of those years. She has both field experience and R & C experience, bringing a wealth of knowledge to the position.



CQI Corner

By Lynn Grigsby, CQI Specialist

- Every person is part of a CQI Team!
- All CQI Meetings are equal in important.
- All CQI Team members are equal.

We are all working together to evaluate the agency services and outcomes, and in turn create and implement plans to improve services!!

OUR CQI TEAMS DO GREAT THINGS!!

Congratulations to all Cumberland Valley CQI Teams!! You all were great during the COA site visit.

Farewell to Jan Rose White

After **40 years** of service to the families of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Jan Rose White retired on August 31, 2001.

We wish Jan Rose the very best on her future endeavors, and we know we will be seeing her from time to time.

From Knox Co. Farewell to Vesta Rice and Pat Hammons

Vesta worked for many years as a Child Protection Worker. She was a Supervisor in the Knox Co. Protection and Permanency Office during the past year.

Pat Hammons worked as an Adult Protection Worker, doing Adult Referrals and Guardianships.

Both Vesta and Pat had much expertise in their fields and they are dearly missed.

Congratulations to Fay Neeley

Congratulations to Fay on her promotion to Field Service Supervisor in Rockcastle Co. Fay brings 20 years of experience to this position. During her years of service Fay has been very active in Vision 2000, CFS and EAL as well as all other initiatives and projects supported by the Cabinet. Fay has extensive knowledge and experience in working with Community Partners and sister agencies. She is an invaluable resource to the Cabinet. She will be an asset to the people and employees of Rockcastle Co. as well as the Cumberland Valley Region.

We need to keep Carol Goins in our thoughts and prayers.

Carol Goins, Secretary in the Clay County Family Support Office, suffered a serious fall on August 27. She sustained multiple injuries and has to

undergo physical therapy for several weeks. Carol retired effective September 30, 2001. We need to remember her in our prayers.

Master of Social Work Stipend Program

Cumberland Valley has a phenomenal number of staff participating in the MSW Stipend Program.

Following are the names of the 13 participants:

Jessaca Greene
Amy Spurlock
Belinda Smith
Melanie Reynolds
Melissa Bowling
Dana McQueen
Kim Collett
Greg Davidson
Patti Miller
Lisa Cain
Barbara Hill
Leslie Davis
John Collier

Congratulations! And we wish you all good luck and much success in your endeavor!

Other Recent Retirees:

Janie Cromer, Rockcastle
Brenda Hayes, Rockcastle
Peggy Brown, Clay
Greta Adkins, Harlan
James Welch, Clay
JoLena Reed, Clay
Carolyn Davis, Laurel
Larry Freeman, Laurel
Carolyn Miracle, Whitley
Janet Elliott, Clay
Roy Baker, Harlan
Gordon Pope, Rockcastle

Congratulations Again to Cumberland Valley Staff for exceeding their Adoption Goal. Great Job!!!



Halloween Reminder: Watch out for all the little "Ghosts and Goblins" on Halloween. Think Safety!!!

2001 Remaining Holidays:

Veterans Day, Monday, November 12



Thanksgiving, Thursday & Friday
November 22 & 23



Christmas, Monday & Tuesday
December 24 & 25



New Year's, Monday & Tuesday
December 31, 2001 and January 1, 2002

